

## THE BOOK OF

# PROVERBS

### The Beginning of Knowledge

**1** THE <sup>a</sup>proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

- 2** To know wisdom and instruction,  
To <sup>1</sup>perceive the words  
of understanding,  
**3** To receive the instruction  
of wisdom,  
Justice, judgment, and equity;  
**4** To give prudence to  
the <sup>a</sup>simple,  
To the young man knowledge  
and discretion—  
**5** <sup>a</sup>A wise *man* will hear and  
increase learning,  
And a man of understanding  
will <sup>1</sup>attain wise counsel,  
**6** To understand a proverb  
and an enigma,  
The words of the wise  
and their <sup>a</sup>riddles.  
**7** <sup>a</sup>The fear of the LORD is the  
beginning of knowledge,  
*But* fools despise wisdom  
and instruction.

### Shun Evil Counsel

- 8** <sup>a</sup>My son, hear the instruction  
of your father,  
And do not forsake the  
law of your mother;  
**9** For they *will be* a <sup>a</sup>graceful  
ornament on your head,  
And chains about your neck.

- 10** My son, if sinners entice you,  
<sup>a</sup>Do not consent.  
**11** If they say, “Come with us,  
Let us <sup>a</sup>lie in wait to *shed* blood;  
Let us lurk secretly for the  
innocent without cause;  
**12** Let us swallow them alive like <sup>1</sup>Sheol,  
And whole, <sup>a</sup>like those who  
go down to the Pit;  
**13** We shall find all *kinds* of  
precious <sup>1</sup>possessions,  
We shall fill our houses with <sup>2</sup>spoil;  
**14** Cast in your lot among us,  
Let us all have one purse”—  
**15** My son, <sup>a</sup>do not walk in  
the way with them,  
<sup>b</sup>Keep your foot from their path;  
**16** <sup>a</sup>For their feet run to evil,  
And they make haste to shed blood.  
**17** Surely, in <sup>1</sup>vain the net is spread  
In the sight of any <sup>2</sup>bird;  
**18** But they lie in wait for  
their *own* blood,  
They lurk secretly for their *own* lives.  
**19** <sup>a</sup>So *are* the ways of everyone  
who is greedy for gain;  
It takes away the life of its owners.

### The Call of Wisdom

- 20** <sup>a</sup>Wisdom calls aloud <sup>1</sup>outside;  
She raises her voice in  
the open squares.  
**21** She cries out in the <sup>1</sup>chief  
concourses,  
At the openings of the  
gates in the city

<sup>1:1</sup><sup>a</sup>1 Kin. 4:32; Prov. 10:1; 25:1; Eccl. 12:9 <sup>1:2</sup><sup>1</sup>understand or discern <sup>1:4</sup><sup>a</sup>Prov. 9:4 <sup>1:5</sup><sup>a</sup>Prov. 9:9 <sup>1</sup>acquire <sup>1:6</sup><sup>a</sup>Num. 12:8; Ps. 78:2; Dan. 8:23 <sup>1:7</sup><sup>a</sup>Job 28:28; Ps. 111:10; Prov. 9:10; 15:33; [Eccl. 12:13] <sup>1:8</sup><sup>a</sup>Prov. 4:1 <sup>1:9</sup><sup>a</sup>Prov. 3:22 <sup>1:10</sup><sup>a</sup>Gen. 39:7–10; Deut. 13:8; Ps. 50:18; [Eph. 5:11] <sup>1:11</sup><sup>a</sup>Prov. 12:6; Jer. 5:26 <sup>1:12</sup><sup>a</sup>Ps. 28:1 <sup>1</sup>Or the grave <sup>1:13</sup><sup>1</sup>Lit. wealth <sup>2</sup>plunder <sup>1:15</sup><sup>a</sup>Ps. 1:1; Prov. 4:14 <sup>b</sup>Ps. 119:101 <sup>1:16</sup><sup>a</sup>Prov. 6:17, 18; [Is. 59:7]; Rom. 3:15 <sup>1:17</sup><sup>1</sup>futility <sup>2</sup>Lit. lord of the wing <sup>1:19</sup><sup>a</sup>Prov. 15:27; [1 Tim. 6:10] <sup>1:20</sup><sup>a</sup>Prov. 8:1; 9:3; [John 7:37] <sup>1</sup>in the street <sup>1:21</sup><sup>1</sup>LXX, Syr., Tg. top of the walls; Vg. the head of multitudes

- She speaks her words:  
**22** “How long, you <sup>1</sup>simple ones,  
 will you love <sup>2</sup>simplicity?  
 For scorers delight in  
 their scorning,  
 And fools hate knowledge.  
**23** Turn at my rebuke;  
 Surely <sup>a</sup>I will pour out  
 my spirit on you;  
 I will make my words  
 known to you.  
**24** <sup>a</sup>Because I have called  
 and you refused,  
 I have stretched out my hand  
 and no one regarded,  
**25** Because you <sup>a</sup>disdained  
 all my counsel,  
 And would have none  
 of my rebuke,  
**26** <sup>a</sup>I also will laugh at  
 your calamity;  
 I will mock when your  
 terror comes,  
**27** When <sup>a</sup>your terror comes  
 like a storm,  
 And your destruction comes  
 like a whirlwind,  
 When distress and anguish  
 come upon you.  
**28** “Then<sup>a</sup> they will call on me,  
 but I will not answer;  
 They will seek me diligently,  
 but they will not find me.  
**29** Because they <sup>a</sup>hated knowledge  
 And did not <sup>b</sup>choose the  
 fear of the LORD,  
**30** <sup>a</sup>They would have none  
 of my counsel  
 And despised my every rebuke.  
**31** Therefore <sup>a</sup>they shall eat the  
 fruit of their own way,  
 And be filled to the full with  
 their own fancies.

- 32** For the <sup>1</sup>turning away of the  
 simple will slay them,  
 And the complacency of  
 fools will destroy them;  
**33** But whoever listens to me  
 will dwell <sup>a</sup>safely,  
 And <sup>b</sup>will be <sup>1</sup>secure,  
 without fear of evil.”

### The Value of Wisdom

- 2** MY son, if you receive my words,  
 And <sup>a</sup>treasure my commands  
 within you,  
**2** So that you incline your  
 ear to wisdom,  
 And apply your heart to  
 understanding;  
**3** Yes, if you cry out for discernment,  
 And lift up your voice for  
 understanding,  
**4** <sup>a</sup>If you seek her as silver,  
 And search for her as *for*  
 hidden treasures;  
**5** <sup>a</sup>Then you will understand  
 the fear of the LORD,  
 And find the knowledge of God.  
**6** <sup>a</sup>For the LORD gives wisdom;  
 From His mouth *come* knowledge  
 and understanding;  
**7** He stores up sound wisdom  
 for the upright;  
<sup>a</sup>He is a shield to those who  
 walk uprightly;  
**8** He guards the paths of justice,  
 And <sup>a</sup>preserves the way of His saints.  
**9** Then you will understand  
 righteousness and justice,  
 Equity *and* every good path.  
**10** When wisdom enters your heart,  
 And knowledge is pleasant  
 to your soul,  
**11** Discretion will preserve you;  
<sup>a</sup>Understanding will keep you,

1:22<sup>1</sup>naive <sup>2</sup>naivete 1:23<sup>a</sup>Is. 32:15; Joel 2:28; [John 7:39] 1:24<sup>a</sup>Is. 65:12; 66:4; Jer. 7:13; Zech. 7:11 1:25<sup>a</sup>Ps. 107:11;  
 Luke 7:30 1:26<sup>a</sup>Ps. 2:4 1:27<sup>a</sup>[Prov. 10:24, 25] 1:28<sup>a</sup>1 Sam. 8:18; Job 27:9; 35:12; Ps. 18:41; Is. 1:15; Jer. 11:11; 14:12; Ezek. 8:18;  
 Mic. 3:4; Zech. 7:13; [James 4:3] 1:29<sup>a</sup>Job 21:14; Prov. 1:22 <sup>b</sup>Ps. 119:173 1:30<sup>a</sup>Ps. 81:11; Prov. 1:25 1:31<sup>a</sup>Job 4:8; Prov. 5:22, 23;  
 22:8; Is. 3:11; Jer. 6:19 1:32<sup>1</sup>waywardness 1:33<sup>a</sup>Prov. 3:24–26 <sup>b</sup>Ps. 112:7 <sup>1</sup>at ease 2:1<sup>a</sup>[Prov. 4:21] 2:4<sup>a</sup>[Prov. 3:14]  
 2:5<sup>a</sup>[James 1:5, 6] 2:6<sup>a</sup>1 Kin. 3:9, 12; [Job 32:8; James 1:5] 2:7<sup>a</sup>[Ps. 84:11]; Prov. 30:5  
 2:8<sup>a</sup>[1 Sam. 2:9]; Ps. 66:9 2:11<sup>a</sup>Prov. 4:6; 6:22